



LAUNCHING OF THE STATE OF CHILDREN IN SIERRA LEONE 2017 REPORT

As the celebration to commemorate the International Day of the Girl Child continues, the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone in collaboration with Save the Children officially launched the report titled 'the State of Children in Sierra Leone 2017' on Friday 16th October 2020 at the Sierra Leone Library Board.

Making the welcome statement Ann- Marie Balboa; Human Rights Officer in the Directorate of Gender and Children's Affairs Welcomed all to such an important event which will launch the State of Children in Sierra Leone 2017. She stated that it was not too late to launch a 2017 report because most of the issues recorded still continue to happen. Issues of child trafficking and SGBV are still prevailing.

The Chairperson of the programme Mrs. Jenneh Boi Jalloh from FORUT stated that the country will not be able to note progress if stock is not taken of the present situation of the country in terms of the status of children. She noted that the report to be launched provides for a general outlook of children and the present state of the country with regards promoting the rights of children. A brief presentation was made by the Deputy Executive Secretary; Fredrick Kamara on the mandate and function of the Commission.

The Oversight Commissioner of Complaint Investigations and Legal Services ; Commissioner Simitie Laval while making the statement on behalf of the Commission stated that the Commission was constraint that was why the report was being launched now. She noted that the report was still relevant because it speaks to the existing problems and challenges children face in Sierra Leone. She assured the children that the HRCSL was committed to the protection and promotion of the rights of children in Sierra Leone, Stating the slogan '**Nothing about us without us**' Commissioner Laval stated that if something was going to be said about children, they (children) should be involved. She concluded by giving her own definition of Human Rights and responsibilities. She stated that 'rights are what government should do for you and how you should be treated, while responsibilities are what you have to do and how you treat other people'. The Director of Monitoring and Research Madam Josephine Thompson- Shaw gave the overview by highlighting the methodology and structure of the report. Making the Key note address, Deputy Commissioner designate of the National Commission for Children, Commissioner Fabundeh Ansumana stated that Sierra



Leone has twenty nine laws for the protection of Children and assured the children that they were committed to implementing those laws to give the children the rights and dignity they deserve.

Presentation was done by pupils of the Gateway Nursery and Preparatory School on the theme of the International Day of the Girl Child '**My Voice Our Equal Future**'.

The Report on the State of Children in Sierra Leone 2017 was officially launched by the Deputy Commissioner designate of the National Commission for Children, Fabundeh Ansumana.

Symbolic presentations were made to two pupils present in the launching ceremony.

In another engagement, the Chairperson of the HRCSL, Commissioner Patricia Naansu Ndanema presented copies of the report to the Chief Librarian of the Sierra Leone Library Board.